

REMARKS

The Examiner's Office Action of January 22, 2004 has been received and its contents reviewed. Accordingly, claims 3, 4, 16, 18, 23 and 35 have been amended. Therefore, claims 3-10, 16-33, and 35-42 are pending for consideration, of which claims 3, 4, 16, 18, and 35 are independent. In view of these actions and the following remarks, reconsideration of this application is now requested.

With regard to the amendments to the independent claims 3, 4, 16, 18 and 35, support for the additional feature of a source wiring connected with one of a source and drain region can be found at least in Figures 1 & 11 and Embodiment 7 of the specification where it is shown that source wiring (128) is electrically connected with the source region (109), and a first portion of said source wiring overlapped with said gate electrode (121) has smaller line width than a second portion (23) of said source wiring not overlapped with said gate electrode.

The Examiner's allowance of the 35-42 and the indication that claim 26 would be allowable if properly amended to be placed into independent form including the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is greatly appreciated.

Initially, the Applicants note that the IDS of September 4, 2001 has only considered the USP 6,013,929 patent and the specification of Application 08/862,895, i.e., the Examiner's initials are present for those documents on the PTO-1449 sent with a the Office Action of May 22, 2003, even though the USPTO Image File Wrapper shows that the September 4th IDS is present in the application file. It is respectfully requested that in the response to this Office Action that the Examiner consider and initial each document listed on the replacement PTO-1449 form attached to the Request for Consideration filed February 4, 2004.

With regard to the Examiner's formality rejection of claims 16 and 17 [sic 18], under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph) as lacking sufficient antecedent basis for the features "said two channel forming regions" and "one of the two channel forming region", the Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection since the Examiner has not outlined a detailed analysis as to why the above features result in the claims failing to

particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. As the Examiner is aware, MPEP Chapter 2173.02 (at page 2100-99), has been revised in February 2003 to now require:

If upon review of a claim in its entirety, the examiner concludes that a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is appropriate, such a rejection should be made and an analysis as to why the phrase(s) used in the claim is "vague and indefinite" should be included in the Office action. If applicants traverse the rejection, with or without the submission of an amendment, and the examiner considers applicant's arguments to be persuasive, the examiner should indicate in the next Office communication that the previous rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph has been withdrawn and provide an explanation as to what prompted the change in the examiner's position (e.g., examiners may make specific reference to portions of applicant's remarks that were considered to be the basis as to why the previous rejection was withdrawn). By providing an explanation as to the action taken, the examiner will enhance the clarity of the prosecution history record. (Emphasis added)

Regardless of the fact that the Examiner has not satisfied the new requirements for setting forth a rejection under § 112 (second paragraph), Applicants contend that, at best, this may be considered objectionable. As a result, Applicant has amended claims 16 and 18 to include “at least” prior to the recitation of “two channel forming regions” to expedite prosecution. For the above reasons, the Applicants assert that the rejection of claims 16-17 [18], under § 112 (second paragraph), is inappropriate and should withdrawn.

With regard to the Examiner’s rejections of:

Claims 3-10, 16-25 and 27-33, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as unpatentable over Matsumoto (‘042), in view of Ikeda (JP ‘767), and Otani (JP ‘184),

Claims 4 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Yeo (‘162) in view of Ikeda (JP ‘767), and Otani (JP ‘184)

each of these rejections are traversed for the reasons advanced below.

Specifically, each of the independent claims 3, 4, 16 and 18 have amended to add the features highlighted below, with reference to claim 3:

-a semiconductor film comprising a plurality of channel forming regions, a plurality of impurity regions, a source region, and a drain region; ...

-a source wiring electrically connected to one of said source region and said drain region, ...

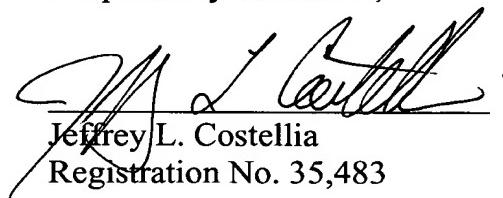
-and wherein a first portion of said source wiring overlapped with said gate electrode has smaller line width than a second portion of said source wiring not overlapped with said gate electrode. (Emphasis added)

A review of each of the Matsumoto ('042), Ikeda (JP '767), Otani (JP '184) and Yeo ('162) references, reveals that none of these references teaches or suggests these features, and, accordingly, the rejections of claims 3-10, 16-25 and 27-33 have been overcome. Withdrawal of those §103 rejections is now earnestly solicited.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of all the pending rejections.

While the present application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,



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